

# Tippecanoe County Health Department

# ANNUAL REPORT 2020



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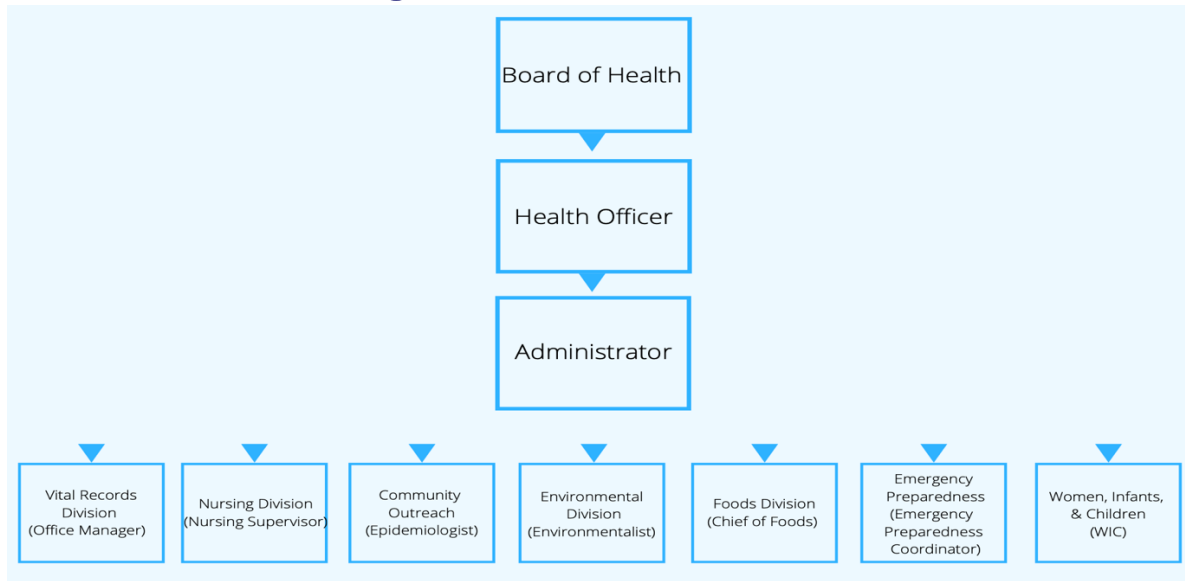
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## Mission Statement

The mission of the Tippecanoe County Health Department is to enhance the health and welfare of Tippecanoe County through public health education, promotion, prevention, and the protection of public and environmental health.

## Organizational Structure



## Health Department Services

### Vital Records

Birth and Death Records, Adoptions, Paternity Affidavits, Registration of Home Births

### Food Safety and Protection

Food and Restaurant Inspections, Food Handler Certification, Employee Health Controls, Time and temperature parameters for controlling pathogens, Reducing food contamination

### Environmental Health

Wastewater disposal and treatment, Surface water pollution, Indoor pollution and mold, Septic Inspections, Rural housing and meth complaints, Vector Control

### Emergency Preparedness

Emergency Preparedness Planning Response, ESF 8 Health and Medical Coalition Coordination, Tippecanoe County Medical Reserve Corps,

Coordination, Emergency Preparedness Training and Exercise, COVID-19 Pandemic Response

### Public Health Nursing

Immunizations, Communicable Diseases Investigations, STD Testing and Intervention, Tuberculosis Testing, Intervention, and Outreach, Gateway to Hope Needle Exchange Program, ESF 8 Health & Medical Group Leader

### Epidemiology

Community Outreach, Maintain Community Partner Relations, Conducting Community Health Needs, Assessments, Community Improvement Planning, Health Education, Accreditation

### WIC (Women, Infant, and Children) Program

Breastfeeding support for new mothers, Food packages to infants, children, and mothers, Nutrition Education Classes, Referrals to other resources

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## Board of Health

The Tippecanoe County Board of Health's main role is to manage the local health department. Established according to Indiana Code 16-20-2, the board consists of seven members representing both cities and the county as a whole. The seven members are each appointed by the City of Lafayette Mayor Tony Roswarski, West Lafayette Mayor John Dennis, and Tippecanoe County Commissioners Tracy Brown (District 1), David Byers (District 2), and Thomas Murtaugh (District 3).

## Board of Health Members

**Nicole Noel, PharmD**

**James Bien, MD, FAAP**

**Dr. Alicia Clevenger**

**Thometra Foster**

**John Thomas, MD**

**Thomas Padgett, MD**

**Pauline Shen**



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## Message from the Health Officer

Dear friends,

If I had to choose one word to describe 2020, it would be “COVID-19.” What a year it’s been! The pandemic has truly affected every aspect of our lives and every division of the Tippecanoe County Health Department.

The dedicated staff of the Health Department has successfully met the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic in an exceptional fashion. From contact tracing to advising local schools and businesses to collaborating with local and state partners to establishing a large COVID-19 vaccination clinic, the herculean efforts of these public health professionals have been paramount in preventing illness and saving lives in our community.

Despite the time, staff, and resources required by the pandemic, the Health Department has also continued carrying out its “usual” duties. The Department has performed hundreds of restaurant inspections, addressed numerous unsafe septic and living conditions, administered hundreds of routine immunizations, provided tuberculosis treatment and surveillance, issued thousands of birth and death certificates, continued the District 4 sexually transmitted infection clinic, and maintained the Gateway to Hope syringe service program. We were also fortunate to obtain a new mobile clinic that will be an integral part of our community outreach efforts.

None of this would have been possible without the dedication and expertise of the Health Department staff and the support of our Board of Health. I consider it a privilege to work alongside and learn from these outstanding individuals who undoubtedly help keep our community healthy.

Respectfully,

Jeremy Adler, M.D





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## Message from the Administrator

I think we can say that 2020 will be a year that we will never forget. This year unlike others past, helped emphasize the importance of public health in helping to protect Tippecanoe County residents. The goal of public health is to prevent, protect and promote for the citizens of the community. Tippecanoe County Health Department staff worked tirelessly to achieve these goals.

Tippecanoe County Health Department's response to COVID-19 has included educating the public on the dynamic situation regarding COVID-19. This included, but is not limited to, press briefings, television and newspaper interviews, and social media outreach. Alongside the advocacy, TCHD provided extensive contact tracing, opening a call-center to answer community questions and concerns. We've worked extensively with our partners in the community: schools, hospitals, religious organizations, long term care facilities, and homeless shelters. It has been a community effort to reduce the spread of COVID-19, no single organization could do it alone.

It has been a truly herculean effort from all aspects of the Health Department. When you think of a pandemic response you naturally think of the Nursing Division and Emergency Response Division, but all divisions of the Health Department have stepped up and I thank you for that. The TCHD staff have been asked to do tasks outside their normal work responsibilities and hours, and all of us met the challenge head on.

Looking forward to 2021 there is hope again with vaccines being rolled out. TCHD is working close with Indiana Department of Health to plan for mass vaccine clinics. We will continue to focus on educating the public regarding the ever-changing COVID-19 situation. As you'll see in the report COVID-19 had an effect on every aspect of TCHD.

Sincerely,  
Khala Hochstedler



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## Highlights from 2020

Tippecanoe County Health Department is committed to promoting, preventing, and protecting the community of Tippecanoe County. TCHD embraces change and seeks to address new challenges in ways that will benefit our community and keep our community healthy. As a result, TCHD has implemented new programs and services to promote safe practices and healthy lifestyles as well as new policies within the health department to support new changes that were faced during the year of 2020.



2020 was a year faced with many unprecedented challenges due to the **COVID-19 pandemic**. There was a total of **14,332** cases of the novel Coronavirus in Tippecanoe County. In 2020, there were **87** deaths caused by COVID-19 reported, which made up just a little over one percent of total deaths from COVID-19 in Indiana. There were numerous mandates and orders put in place in order to help slow the spread of the virus. All divisions of the health department came together to help combat the COVID-19 pandemic.

In the **Vital Records Division**, the number of total births has remained steady, however the number of total deaths has increased from 2019 to 2020 due to COVID-19 and other relating health factors. Since the number of deaths has increased, we have also seen an increase in the number of suicides and overdoses this past year as well. Another major change that has occurred is the transition to VitalChek, a software for individuals to request vital records online.

In the **Nursing Division**, the focus continues to remain on the physical, mental, and emotional health and wellbeing of the community. At the beginning of 2020 the nursing division has been hard at work with COVID-related tasks such as creating call centers and hotlines, case investigations, and contact tracing. The nursing division continued to focus on child and infant immunizations but the numbers of vaccinations being given decreased due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Sexually Transmitted Disease testing and Tuberculosis testing were still made available to the public. This year was the first year that the county hired a full-time Fetal Infant Mortality nurse to investigate cases and help find causes and ways to decrease fetal and infant deaths throughout Tippecanoe and surrounding counties.

The **Community Outreach Division** also played a big part in the health department's response to COVID. They opened a COVID-19 hotline that people in the community could call in order to get answers about important questions pertaining to COVID such as exposure, quarantine, and many other COVID-related topics. The division continues to focus on the community needs that were identified as a result of the 2019 Community Health Needs Assessment as well as aiding in the establishment, participation, and maintenance of community partnerships of different stakeholders in the health community.

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In the **Foods Division** routine inspections were halted at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic but were eventually continued through the division's safety measures. A new food inspector was hired in May 2020.

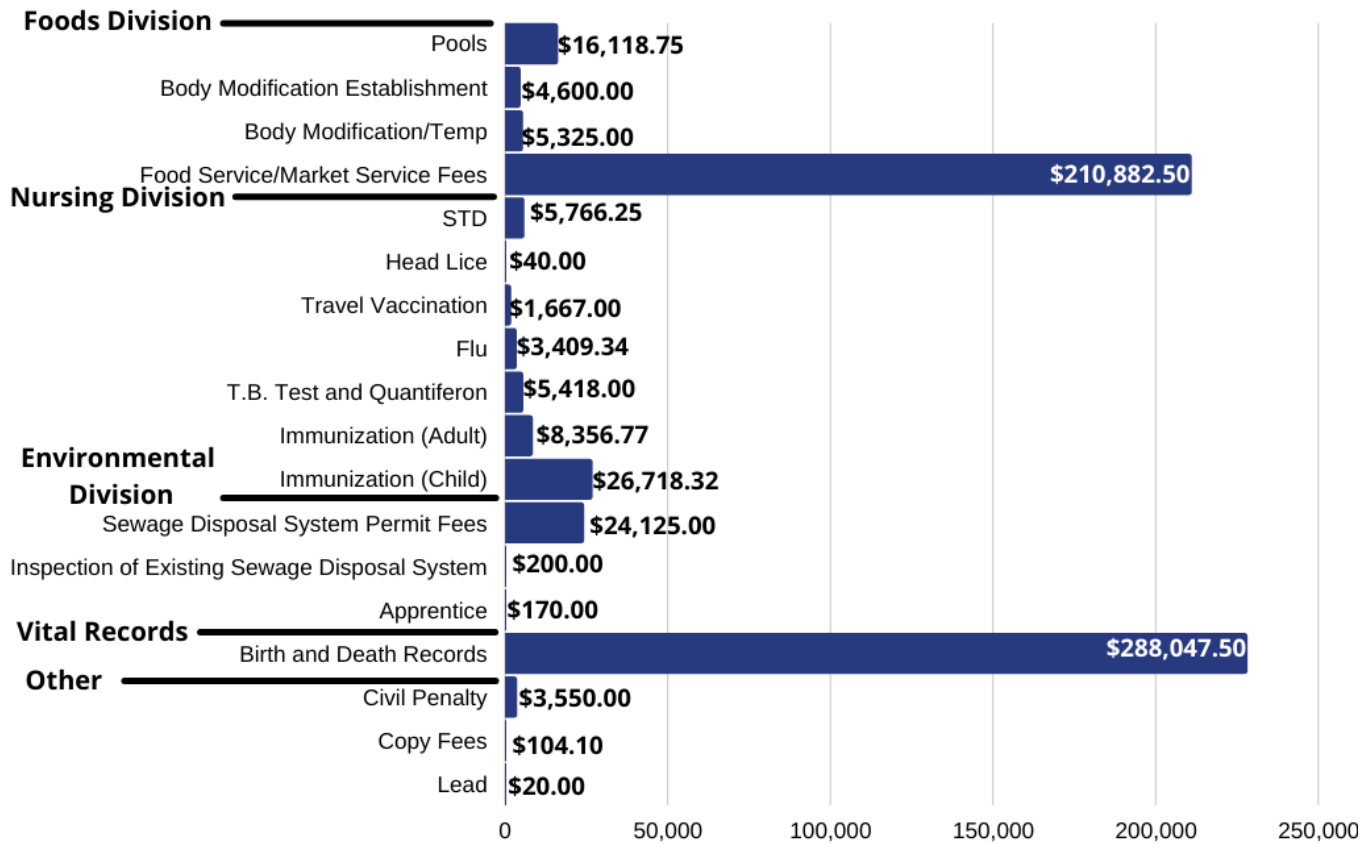
The **Emergency Preparedness Division** played a huge role in helping fight the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2020 the division was involved in all things COVID related. The division prepared for COVID press briefings, worked on a plan for vaccination distribution, and updated the pandemic flu plan. The division also hosted numerous POD's in which they distributed PPE to area public safety and ESF-8.

**The goal for the Tippecanoe County Health Department for 2021 is to continue to protect the citizens of the county against the COVID-19 pandemic.**

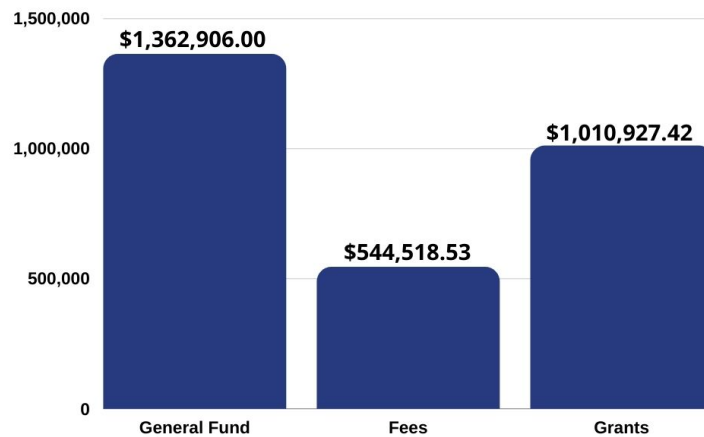


## Financial Statement

### TCHD Fees by Division



### 2020 Revenue



## Grants for 2020

| Grant                                     | Amount Awarded   |
|---|--|
| Local Health Trust                        | <b>\$65,427.73</b>   |
| Local Health Maintenance                  | <b>\$72,672.00</b>   |
| Local Health Maintenance Carryover        | <b>\$77,951.09</b>   |
| Local Health Trust Carryover              | <b>\$123,716.60</b>  |
| STD Prevention                            | <b>\$131,555.00</b>  |
| HIV Prevention                            | <b>\$30,000.00</b>   |
| Immunization Awareness                    | <b>\$55,000.00</b>   |
| COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic                   | <b>\$120,960.00</b>  |
| OCRA                                      | <b>\$100,000.00</b>  |
| FIMR                                      | \$62,000 State<br>\$20,000 IU<br>\$20,000 Franciscan<br>\$10,000 NCHS<br><b>\$112,000.00</b> |
| Narcan                                    | 2,000 doses x avg. cost Naloxone (\$30)=<br><b>\$60,000.00</b>                               |
| Health Foundation of Greater Indianapolis | <b>\$10,000.00</b>   |
| Drug Free Coalition Grant                 | <b>\$9,750.00</b>  |
| United Way Shelter Grant                  | <b>\$10,000.00</b>   |
| Emergency Preparedness                    | <b>\$31,895.00</b>   |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                              | <b>\$1,010,927.42</b>  |

## COVID-19 Pandemic Response

The coronavirus pandemic has undoubtedly brought the largest number of challenges and collaborative effort to protect the community. From the first confirmed case in the county in late March to planning for a mass vaccination site into the new year, the entire department has put many projects and programs on the backburner in order to focus as much time and attention to the unprecedented frequency of complications that COVID-19 has brought the community.

The nursing division was tasked almost immediately with the creation of a call center in order to track case investigations and contact trace those who were exposed to someone with a positive COVID-19 case. This hotline has continued to be an important resource to the community, as it allows individuals to receive answers directly from reliable sources.

One of the largest challenges the department has faced is the mobilization effort required by all community members to maintain the current expected health behaviors, including wearing masks when in public places or when around individuals who are not a part of the same household, frequent handwashing, social distancing, and avoiding large gatherings. Mandatory mask mandates at the state, county, and city level have certainly become well-known and compliance has remained relatively high.

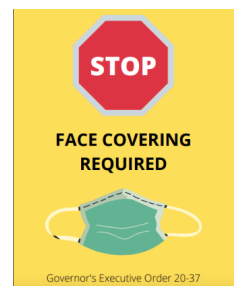


We are a unique community with a large residential population in addition to the 40+ thousands of college students who reside in West Lafayette on Purdue University's campus. The University cooperated with local bodies of governing in order to safely handle the travel of students as they return to campus and the surrounding community. It was made known to Purdue's taskforce that there were concerns with the effect students may have on the surrounding community once they leave their academic buildings and enter restaurants, bars, retail and grocery stores, etc. Many store owners may place informative signs on entrances refusing service to anyone without a mask, or anyone who refuses to comply to any safety regulations.



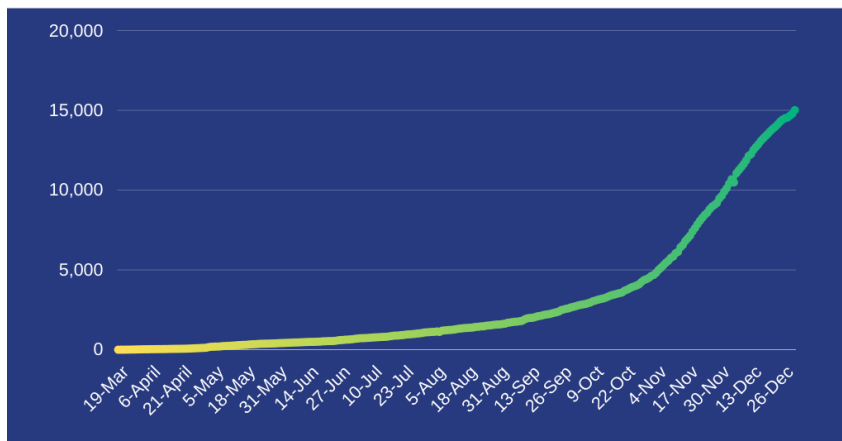
Tiptecanoe County has followed the Indiana Back on Track Plan that has been set in place by Governor Eric Holcomb. The color-coded county metric map has been in use since its implementation on

November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Each county is rated on the 7-day positivity rate and the weekly cases per 100,000. These two scores are then added together and divided by two to calculate the average, which determines the county's overall rating on the color scale. These scores are updated Wednesdays at 12:00 PM, and then the following requirements for social gathering size are put into place. As the county received an orange rating in mid-November, an additional set of limits were set in place locally for retail, restaurants, gyms, etc. in addition to the governor's executive order. When county's 7-day positivity rate exceeds 10%, the following restrictions are put in place: retail capacity at 75%; cultural, entertainment, tourism venues at 50%; gyms and fitness centers at 50%; senior day centers at 50%. This shall remain in place for 14 days after positivity rate is below 10% for that amount of time.



|        | Point Score | 7-Day Positivity Rate (all tests) | Weekly Cases (new) Per 100,000 Residents | Social Gathering Size Max | Overall Attendance at Social Gatherings (% of facility capacity) |
|--------|-------------|-----------------------------------|--|---------------------------|--|
| Blue   | <1.0        | <5%                               | <10                                      | 250                       | 100%   |
| Yellow | 1.0-1.5     | 5.0-9.9%                          | 10-99                                    | 100                       | <50%   |
| Orange | 2.0-2.5     | 10-14.9%                          | 100-199                                  | 50                        | <25%   |
| Red    | >3.0        | >15%                              | >200                                     | 25                        | <25%   |

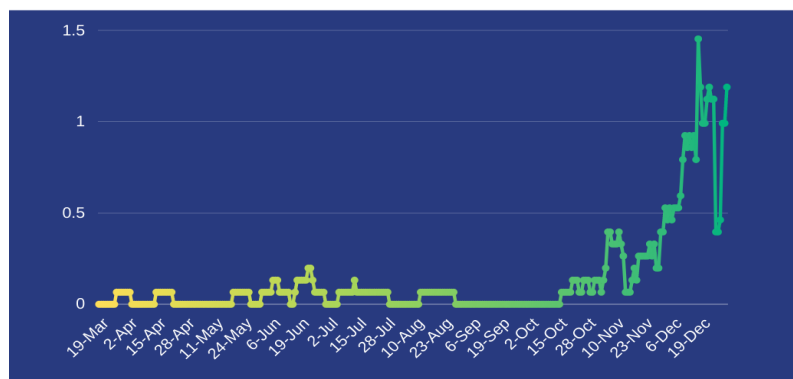
### TIPPECANOE COUNTY COVID-19 CUMULATIVE CASES 2020 MAR 19-DEC 31



Cumulative cases show that the sharpest increase in infection occurred in mid-October and continued to grow on an exponential track compared to the more gradual growth in preceding months. The highest number of daily positives for the county was December 12<sup>th</sup>, with **284** confirmed cases.

Deaths remained relatively few for several months but began increasing by November. The highest number of daily deaths was December 18<sup>th</sup> with **11** deaths for the county. The first death for the county recorded was March 27<sup>th</sup>. In 2020, there were 87 deaths caused by COVID-19 reported, which made up just a little over one percent of total deaths from COVID-19 in Indiana. The death rate for the county in 2020 was **0.58%**, which means that less than one percent of the population who tested positive for COVID-19 died.

### TIPPECANOE COUNTY COVID-19 DAILY DEATHS PER 100,000 7 DAY AVERAGE MAR 27-DEC 31





Overall, the county witnessed a relatively small infection rate for the better part of 2020. However, beginning in mid-October, Tippecanoe county had a higher infection rate and death rate continue throughout the holiday season, prompting stricter regulations in order to curb the heightened spread. The spike emphasized the community's need for an effective vaccine and comprehensive distribution schedule. By November 3<sup>rd</sup>, the county would be transitioning from yellow to orange as the spread of the disease became more significant. TEMA was recruited to distribute electronic signs throughout the county urging people to mask up. The health department additionally found funding to hire more contact tracers to further handle the increase in cases. As promises of a vaccine became eminent, it was necessary to mobilize efforts in creating a mass vaccination site in the county. Moderna's COVID-19 vaccine was approved for emergency use by the FDA on December 18<sup>th</sup>.

The health department started a program through OCRA funding to provide food and supplies for families under quarantine and isolation. Food supplies such as milk, fresh fruit, soups, and other groceries as well as medicines were delivered to the homes of those patients. This program was able to help more than 100 people with their needs during their illness.

At the beginning of the COVID-19 outbreak, schools and universities were mandated to move to remote and online learning where students would have to learn from home. The orders were set in place mid-March and accommodations were made for the students that faced more difficulties during online learning. Schools remained closed during the summer months. Purdue University allowed students to return to campus in the Fall of 2020 for minimized in person lectures and requiring students to be tested and quarantined upon arrival. Community schools resumed as well in the fall with new regulations and in person hours revised. Each school was prepared and well equipped to return to remote learning at their discretion. Starting in November all schools within the county had to follow the state guidelines and Back on Track plan regarding extracurricular activities.



# **DIVISION REPORTS**

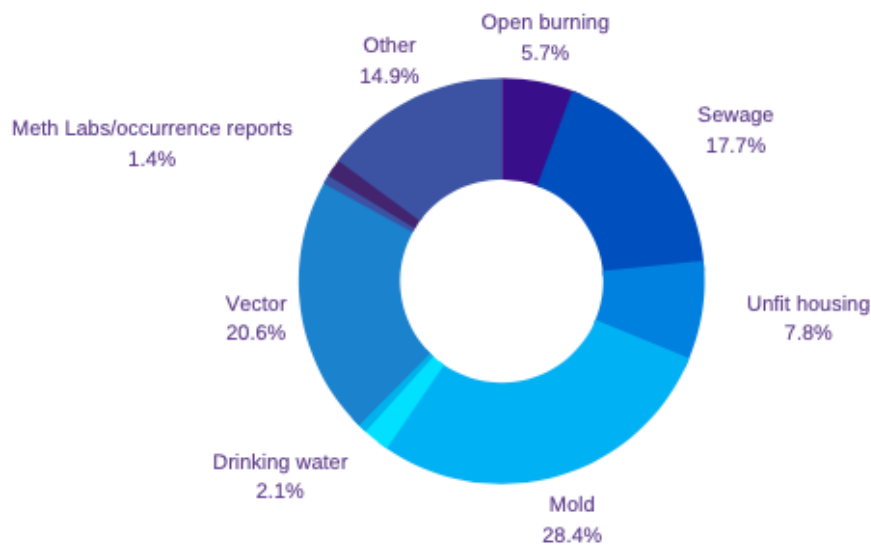


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## Environmental Division

The Environmental Division is responsible for the investigation of complaints made by Tippecanoe County residents as well as the issuance of permits and inspection of sewage disposal systems.

Tippecanoe County Health Department received a total of **141** complaints during 2020.

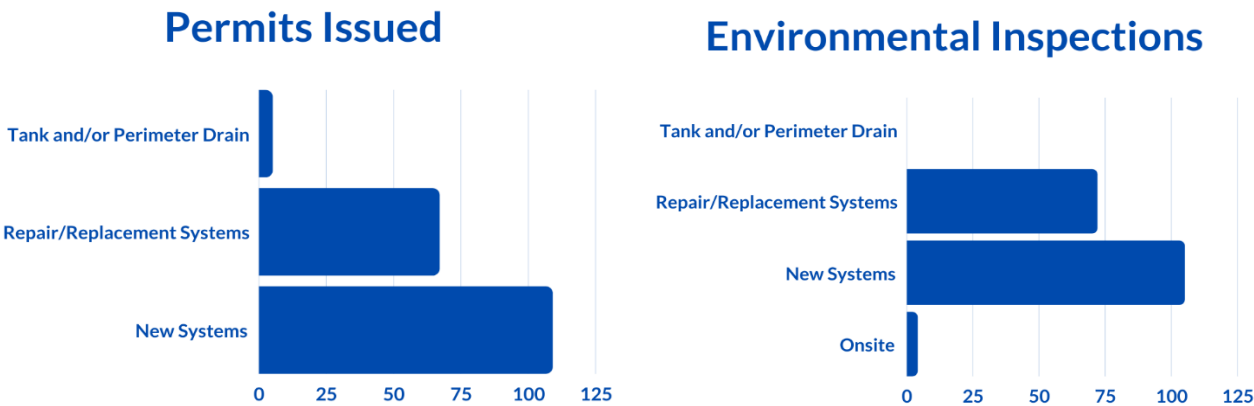


**Mold**-The most common type of complaint is mold. In 2020, the health department received 40 complaints of mold in homes. A majority of these complaints were followed up with testing after a physician's recommendation was given to the health department. The Health Department will request an indoor air evaluation to be performed by the Indiana State Department of Health Industrial Hygienist, after receiving a physician's request. Also measured during the evaluation are the carbon dioxide level, relative humidity, and temperature. A report will be generated and sent to the Health Department and the person who made the complaint.

**Vector**-The second most common type of complaint are vector complaints. Vector complaints from 2020 include bed bugs, cockroaches, mosquitos, rats, and mice.

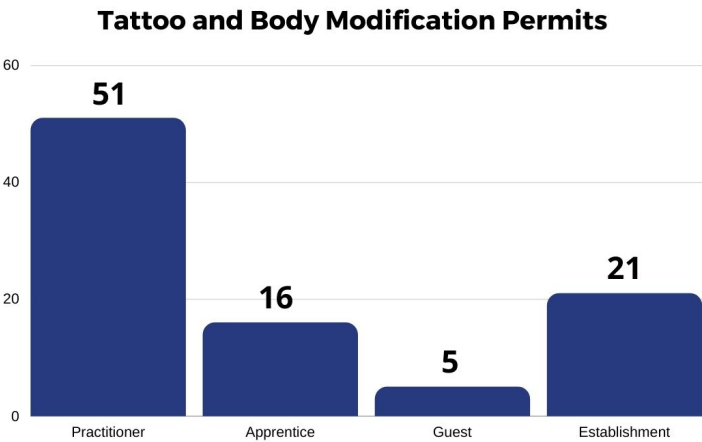
Mosquito complaints are higher priority given the diseases they carry. Whenever mosquito complaints are reported, TCHD has an employee who is licensed by the Indiana Department of Health State Chemist Office to treat these areas. Additionally, known problem areas in the community are treated on an annual basis.

**Sewage-** Aside from responding to environmental complaints, the Environmental Division oversees the permitting and inspection of residential and commercial on-site sewage disposal and septic systems. Septic systems retain and treat wastewater, however when septic systems fail, inadequately treated wastewater from the failing septic system can contaminate the drinking water supply. In 2020, there were a total of **181** permits issued and **181** systems inspected.



**Tattoo and Body Modification**

The Tippecanoe County Tattoo and Body Modification Ordinance was created in 2015. Permits for establishments must be paid once a year, and establishments are inspected twice a year, or on a complaint basis. The establishment must maintain a sanitary environment, update permits and licenses, and keep current records of supply orders. In 2020, there were 48 total inspections done. The following graph shows the amount of permits issues for the year.

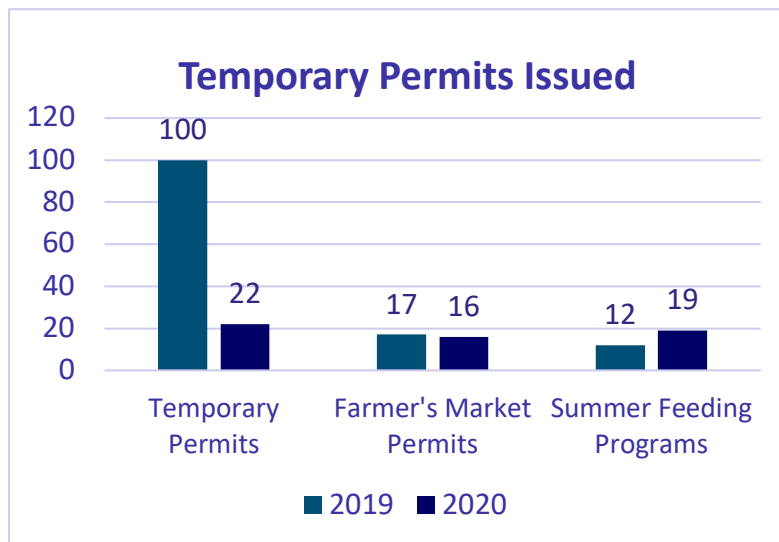


## Foods Division

The Foods Division routinely surveys all the Tippecanoe County areas, restaurants, retail food establishments, mobile units, farmer's markets, and temporary events as well as provides education on safe food practices. Tippecanoe County has over **850** establishments. The foods division hired a new Environmentalist, Kevin Davis, who started in May.

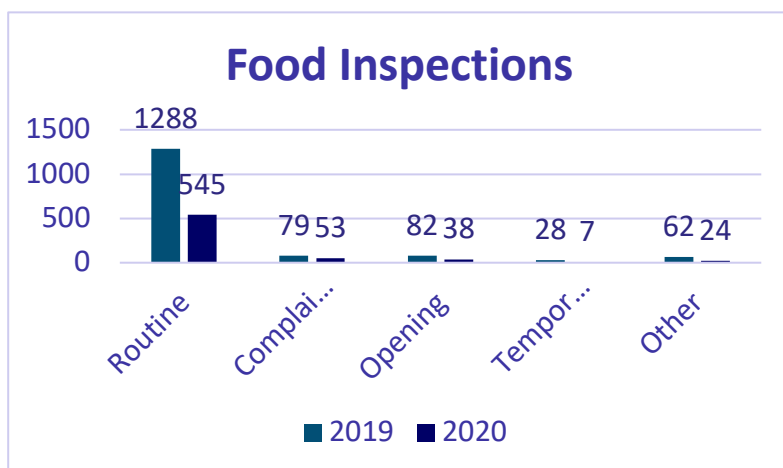
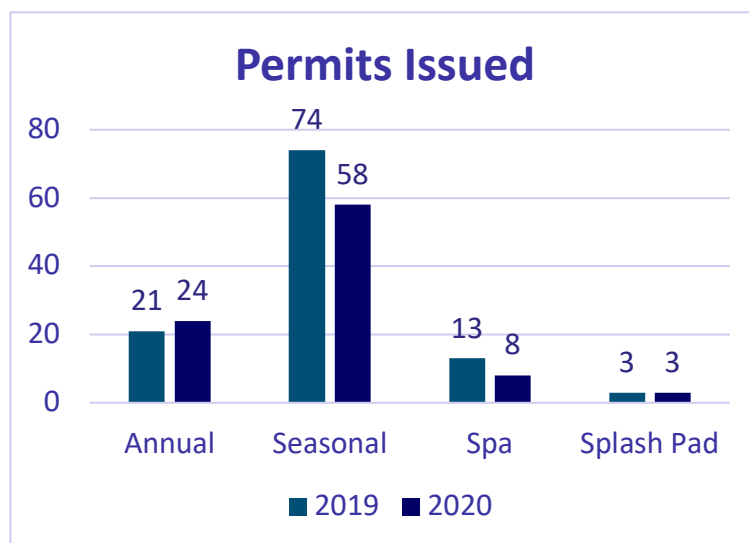
Environmentalists in the foods division work hard conducting plan review, pre-operational inspections, routine inspections, responding to complaints received, providing educational trainings and other miscellaneous inspections for retail food establishments. They also must perform these duties for public and semi-public pools, spas, and splash pads for the county. Environmentalists ensure that facilities are taking measures to prevent any unsanitary conditions.

Due to COVID-19, inspections were scaled back considerably compared to previous years. Inspectors were also forced to take on a new role of keeping an eye over COVID safety compliance, in addition to the education and enforcement of food safety compliance. As of 2020, the county was still in the middle of an ongoing investigation regarding a foodborne illness outbreak possibly linked to an establishment.



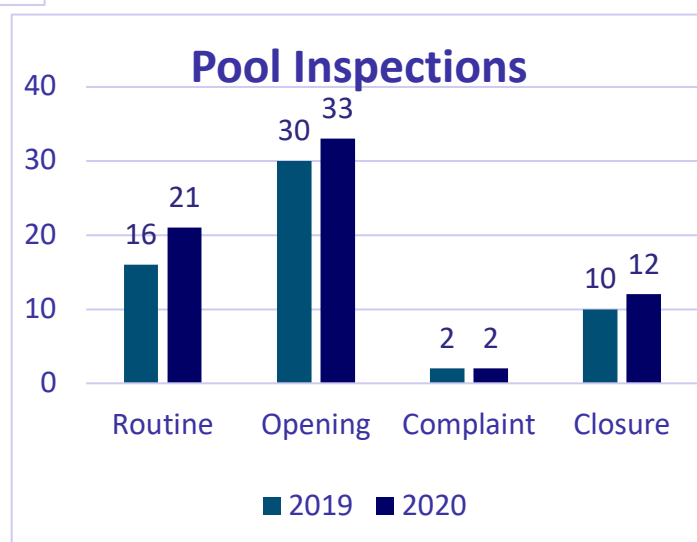
**Temporary permits** are needed for temporary events, including farmer's market permit and summer feeding programs. There was a large decrease in the number of temporary permits needed for events, as the pandemic restricted the types of events and large gatherings that could be held.

**Swimming pool permits** are issued through the Tippecanoe County Health Department. These include public and semi-public pools and spas within the county.



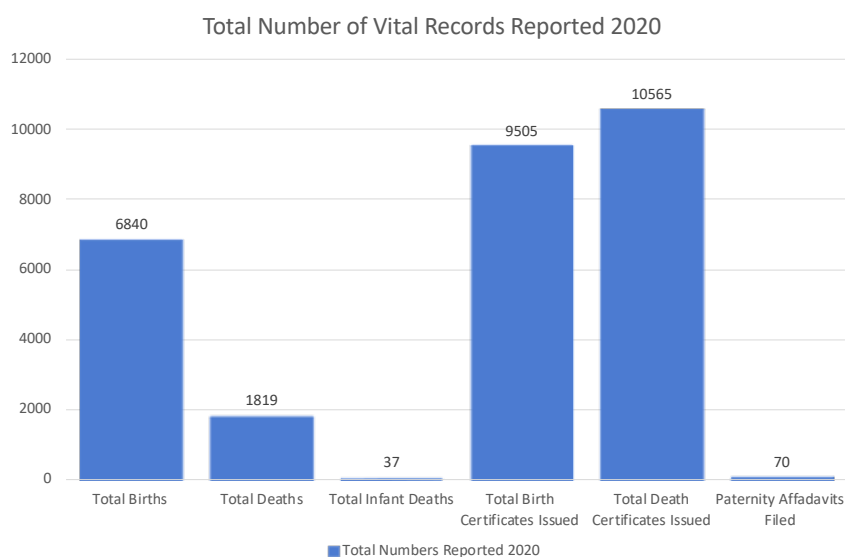
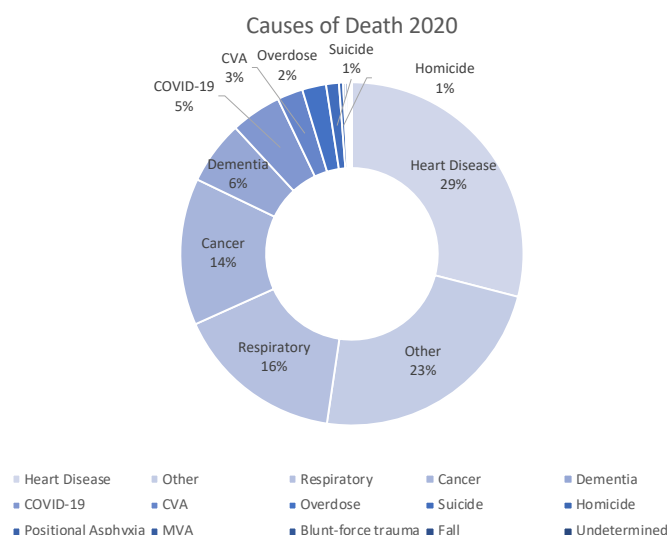
Most establishments undergo **food inspections** two times a year. Inspectors will ensure that guidelines set by the state and county are being upheld, as well as ensuring that COVID-19 safety measures are being followed. Inspections have decreased significantly since 2019 due to safety protocol.

**Pool inspections** occur once a year for pools that are annually permitted. TCHD Swimming Pool Ordinance No. 2018-16-CM went into effect in 2020 and will be implemented in 2021. This requires that annual pools are inspected twice a year and seasonal pools (May-September) are inspected at least once a season.



## Vital Records Division

The vital records division is tasked with providing both birth and death certificates for the county. In total, there were 6,840 births and 1,856 deaths. There were 9,505 certified birth records, 10,565 certified death records, and 70 paternity affidavits issued in 2020. Heart disease still remained the highest cause of death within the county in 2020 which was the same as the United States as a whole. During the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the vital records division recognized safety measures by implementing VitalChek for individuals to request Birth Certificates online, or through the mail. Death certificates were picked up by funeral home coordinators at the front door or were sent through the mail to further minimize direct contact.



## COMMUNICABLE DISEASE

Tippecanoe County Health Department conducts surveillance, investigation, and follow-up on all reportable communicable diseases and outbreaks within the county. According to Indiana Administrative Code 410 IAC 1-2.3-49 (2)(b) the local health department in the jurisdiction where the patient is a resident is responsible for instituting control measures and performing any epidemiological investigation required in a reasonable timeframe.

Reports can be submitted to the TCHD via fax on a Communicable Disease Reporting form, or electronically through the Indiana National Electronic Database Surveillance System.

| 2020 CASES                                    |       |
|---|-------|
| Animal Bites                                  | 127   |
| Campylobacter                                 | 3     |
| Cryptosporidiosis                             | 3     |
| Giardiasis                                    | 1     |
| Hepatitis A                                   | 7     |
| Hepatitis B                                   | 2     |
| Hepatitis C acute                             | 8     |
| Hepatitis C Chronic                           | 19    |
| Lyme Disease                                  | 1     |
| MIS-C   | 2     |
| Novel Coronavirus                             | 14332 |
| Salmonella                                    | 10    |
| Shiga-toxin producing E. coli (0157 + others) | 1     |
| Shigellosis                                   | 1     |
| Strep Pneumoniae                              | 2     |
| Varicella                                     | 4     |

## LEAD POISONING & PREVENTION PROGRAM

Lead testing is conducted at the Tippecanoe County Health Department. Current CDC recommendations state that children should be screened for lead at approximately 15 months of age as a part of the routine immunizations schedule through a finger prick test conducted at a pediatrician's office. If a blood lead test result is 10-14 ug/dL, the

child should be retested every 3 to 4 months. A blood lead test that is 15 ug/dL or higher should receive individual case management. Any child over the age of 7 or considered high risk for lead poisoning should be tested additionally. Screenings are offered by the nursing division, and appointments may be made by phone at 765-423-9222.

| LEAD SCREENING DATABASE                    | 2020 Total |
|--|------------|
| New Lead Poisoning Cases                   | 18         |
| Total Open Cases at end of Quarter         | 21         |
| Cases Closed                               | 14         |
| Home Visits                                | 4          |
| Total Tests Performed at TCHD              | 7          |
| Total Tests Reported by Private Physicians | 86         |



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## TUBERCULOSIS

*Mycobacterium tuberculosis* (TB) is an infectious disease that is considered both communicable and reportable to the Tippecanoe County Health Department. The elimination of this disease depends on a partnership with local health organizations and hospitals, as well as treating both those with active and latent cases of TB. This is a disease that requires a rigorous treatment schedule to fully eliminate the infection, and medication compliance is a barrier to preventing the spread of this disease.



In 2020, there were 1 suspect case and 1 active cases of TB recorded in the county. A public health nurse must directly observe individuals with active infection take their medicine to ensure that they complete their regimen, since a Directly Observed Treatment (DOT) is required for this treatment plan.

Someone is considered to have an inactive infection if there are still tuberculosis bacteria present in their body but are noninfectious. Latent TB therapy is provided to individuals with a positive TB skin test or positive IGRA blood test, a negative chest x-ray, showing no active infection, and an evaluation proving no symptoms of active disease. Therapy for latent infection is optional, and a patient may opt in at no cost. This could either be through a 12-week DOT treatment, or a daily medication treatment at home for either 6 or 9 months.

Latent cases are the most significant focus of this division, as there are less frequent active infections due to improved reporting measures by the community. Treatment of latent TB cases is one of the most important strategies in the eradication of this disease.

## STD Division

The goal of the clinic is to prevent the spread of STD's by promoting safe sex and by providing the necessary resources to those in need. The department tests for chlamydia, gonorrhea, syphilis, and HIV in the clinic. The goal is to prevent the spread of STDs by providing low-cost testing and treatment to those within the community. Along with the low-cost testing and treatment, each interaction is supplemented with education, safe sex items, and referrals to those who are interested.

| TCHD Onsite Testing  | Tests Performed | Positive | Negative | Treatment |
|----------------------|-----------------|----------|----------|-----------|
| Chlamydia            | 452             | 51       | 401      | 76        |
| Gonorrhea            | 452             | 16       | 436      | 27        |
| Syphilis             | 123             | 22       | 100      | 34        |
| Hepatitis C          | 10              | 1        | 9        | 0         |
| HIV                  | 377             | 2        | 375      | 0         |
| TCHD Offsite Testing | Tests Performed | Positive | Negative | Treatment |
| Chlamydia            | 3               | 0        | 3        | 0         |
| Gonorrhea            | 3               | 1        | 2        | 1         |
| Syphilis             | 0               | 0        | 0        | 0         |
| Hepatitis C          | 34              | 4        | 30       | 0         |
| HIV                  | 31              | 0        | 31       | 0         |



The STD division put on 2 drive-thru condom pickup events during 2020. One took place in July and another in October.

## IMMUNIZATIONS

Due to COVID, the health department was not able to do as many immunizations as we have done in previous years. The department did immunization appointments in both January and February of 2020, but after that the division was overwhelmed with COVID-related tasks.

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## FIMR (Fetal and Infant Mortality Review)

This year, the health department hired a full time Fetal Infant Mortality nurse to investigate cases and help find causes of and ways to decrease fetal and infant deaths. Through review of infant mortality records, interviews with mothers, and interagency cooperation and collaboration, the team strives to understand the circumstances resulting in ongoing fetal and infant deaths in our region and to enhance resources and increase access to services for women, infants, and families.

Tippecanoe County has had **24** deaths- **13** fetal and **11** infant. Most of the fetal causes have been unknown. For infants, we had 1 sleep related death and 2 injury related deaths. Most others were complications from prematurity and congenital anomalies.

Our region consists of Benton, Boone, Carroll, Cass, Clinton, Fountain, Jasper, Montgomery, Pulaski, Tippecanoe, Warren, and White counties. It has been well documented that the West Central Indiana (WCI) region experiences an infant death rate above the Healthy People 2020 goal of 6.0 per 1,000 live births (Center for Disease Control and Prevention, 2019). The overall 2017 infant death rate in WCI was 6.9 per 1000 live births. Additionally, the WCI Region is considered an OB dessert with only five birthing facilities in the 12-county region; eight counties have no birthing facilities in them. The Indiana State Department of Health and leaders at Franciscan Health Lafayette East and IU Health Arnett recognized this unaddressed need and collaborated with the Tippecanoe County Health Department to form the planning committee for the WCI FIMR Program in 2019.

The Case Review Team started the review process in March. During review they try to identify any services gaps or health inequities that exist. They reviewed cases, identified trends/issues, and developed recommendations for the Community Action Team, which started in January 2021. Right now, the team is still in the action planning phase with goals to increase evidenced-based screening by providers to address health inequities, improve bereavement resource access and follow up for mothers, and continuing efforts to reduce safe sleep. This year they distributed over 350 cribs and sleep sacks and safe sleep education to pediatric offices in low-income areas, resource centers, ERs, first responders, and health departments to be given out to those who need them. There were 50 deaths in the WCI region- 28 fetal and 22 infants. They have reviewed 24 of these cases so far. There were 4 sudden unexplained infant death (SUID) and/or unsafe sleep cases, 10 congenital anomalies, and several prematurity cases.

## GATEWAY TO HOPE- SYRINGE EXCHANGE PROGRAM



Gateway to Hope was established in 2017 by the Tippecanoe County Health Department, and within just three years of operation, this program has already improved many lives. There are still many exciting improvements to be made, as the program has been approved to continue for two more years. The department has also received approval to hire a new fulltime employee for the coming year.

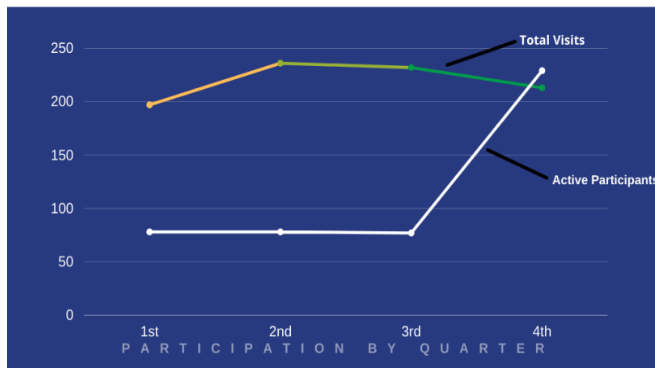
This program's importance for the community cannot be underestimated, which is proven through the increase in weekly hours, which now include Tuesdays 3-6 PM, Fridays 1-5 PM, and the third Saturday of the month 10 AM-1 PM. The Lafayette Transitional Housing at 815 N 12<sup>th</sup> St is the site of these needle exchanges.

The program was initially started to address the rising incidence Hepatitis C outbreak in Tippecanoe County. In 2017, 108 of the participants were tested for HCV with 50 of them identified as having HCV. 104 participants were tested for HIV and none were identified as having HIV. In 2020, regular testing for HIV and HCV stopped unless there was a known exposure, or someone was concerned

about their status. Normally, participants are advised to be tested every three months if they are IV users, but due to concerns regarding safe social distancing, the number of tests given were reduced.

This year has presented several challenges to providing care and services, but the program has remained operational and functional throughout the pandemic. Syringe distribution never stopped in the midst of the pandemic and was made more accessible through the use of the mobile unit and setting up at the LTHC. In fact, visits throughout the year never significantly decreased, but active participants shot up greatly, which means that more individuals now than ever are now participating in

**GATEWAY TO HOPE  
TOTAL VISITS VS ACTIVE  
PARTICIPANTS 2020**



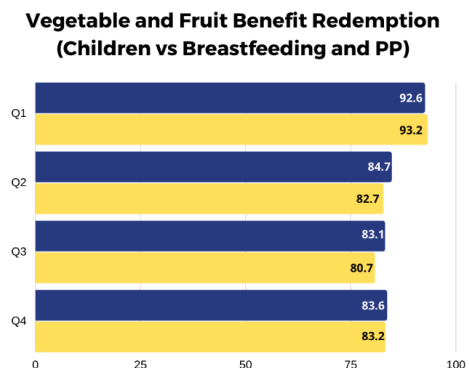
clean needle exchange.

### **2021 Gateway to Hope Goals:**

- Change SSP distribution schedule upon feedback from participant survey
- Increase testing numbers and restoring previous screening procedure
- Immunizations, especially to HIV and HCV positive individuals
- Meet with participants outside of Gateway to Hope hours to assist them with other individual needs
- 2 Naloxone training sessions a month
- Purdue student volunteers for community pickup
- Increase social media participation
- Additional mobile unit location

## WIC

WIC (Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children) is a federally funded program that provides health and nutritional support to low-income breastfeeding, postpartum, and pregnant women, as well as infants and children up to age five. WIC provides access to nutritious foods as well as resources to help educate families on health and nutrition, breastfeeding support, and referrals to other social services.



As of March 2020, Tippecanoe County WIC operated completely remotely; all appointments and services were provided over the phone. Although most WIC services are provided over-the-phone, WIC lactation professionals are available for in-person breastfeeding consultations when needed. Breastfeeding mothers on the program still have access to breastfeeding aides and breast pumps as needed. Farmers market checks were distributed beginning June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020. 440 booklets were available with three FMNP checks, totaling to \$24 for fresh produce grown locally. Tippecanoe County WIC had the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest redemption rate in the state, at 81.3%, which is a 6.9% increase from 2019. 100% of available checks were allocated, which totaled to \$7,8656 redeemed in Tippecanoe County, which means that a significant number of fresh fruits and vegetables were purchased by low-income families.

Tippecanoe County has made great strides in reaching more people this year, in large part due to the COVID-19 pandemic that put many more people at-risk of decreased access to essential services and resources. There were drastic increases in monthly participation beginning in April 2020 as more people needed assistance during the significant social and economic burden many families faced. The USDA provided waivers for Indiana WIC to waive the requirement for in-person appointments, so that they could be done safely over the phone. Tippecanoe County WIC ended 2020 with an overall retention rate of 95.4%, which means that only 4.6% of enrolled clients were not actively using their benefits. In the first quarter of fiscal year 2020, Tippecanoe County was ranked 6 out of 40 agencies in Indiana, but ended the fiscal year ranked 3<sup>rd</sup>.

The USDA's Loving Support Award of Excellence was awarded to Tippecanoe County WIC on August 3<sup>rd</sup>. This award acknowledges the excellent work and great strides made in promoting breastfeeding to participating families. Tippecanoe County WIC was awarded with both Gold and Gold Premiere levels.

The Indiana WIC mobile app has added additional resources, including nutrition education classes and breastfeeding classes, since in-person classes have been limited. The classes on the WIC mobile app are easy to find, include a variety of topics, and are available in both English and Spanish.

### 2021 Tippecanoe County WIC Goals:

1. Continue increasing fruit and vegetable redemption in all WIC categories.
2. Continue to offer safe, creative, and effective ways to provide WIC services to families in an effort to maintain and increase caseload.

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## EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS DIVISION

The Emergency Preparedness Division's mission is to ensure the health and welfare of the entire community before, during and after public health or other all-hazards emergencies that present public health implications.

Important components to achieving the above mission include:

- Emergency preparedness planning
- Emergency response
- Health and Medical Coalition
- Tippecanoe County Medical Reserve Corps

**COVID-19** took over all aspects of the Emergency Preparedness division as of January 20, 2020. Here are some highlights that took place in the Emergency Preparedness division in 2020:

- The Medical Countermeasure Dispensing Plan was updated.
- The Pandemic Flu Plan was updated.
- The Emergency Operations Plan was updated.
- The division helped prepare for weekly COVID-19 press briefings.
- ESF-8/Purdue Safety Committee/EOC meetings happened weekly.
- 68 PPE Points of Distribution took place.
  - 34 public safety – fire, EMS, and police.
  - 32 ESF-8 – healthcare, nursing homes, and hospitals.
- Organized vaccine clinic operations.



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# Acknowledgments

## Tippecanoe County Council

|                                       |                                      |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Ben Murray: District 1                | Kevin Underwood: President, At Large |
| Jody Hamilton: At Large               | Lisa Dullum: District 4              |
| John Basham: Vice President, At Large | Roland Winger: District 2            |
| Kathy Vernon: District 3              |                                      |

## Tippecanoe County Commissioners

|                                     |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Tracy Brown: District 1, President  |   |
| Thomas Murtaugh: District 3, Member | David Byers: District 2, Vice President |

## Board of Health

|                      |                      |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| Nicole Noel, PharmD  | Thometra Foster      |
| Dr. Alicia Clevenger | Thomas Padgett, MD   |
| John Thomas, MD      | James Bien, MD, FAAP |
| Pauline Shen         |                      |

## Administration

|                                  |                                    |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Dr. Jeremy Adler: Health Officer | Amanda Balser, Executive Assistant |
| Khala Hochstedler, Administrator |                                    |

## Nursing Division

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Cassie Shaw, Nursing Supervisor              | Gicelle Garcia, Disease Intervention Specialist |
| Natasha Gates, Communicable Diseases         | Jolene Hosler, Clinic Coordinator               |
| Rachel McCreery, Public Health Nurse         | Whitney Hobbs, Immunizations Public Relation    |
| Grace Paton, Recovery Coach                  | Aubrey Kitchel, FIMR Nurse                      |
| Paige Logan, Disease Intervention Specialist | Godfrey Gichigo, TB Nurse                       |
| Gloria Thompson, TB Clerk                    | Megan Wykoff, HIV Public Relations              |

## Vital Records Division

|                               |                                  |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Tonya Haygood, Office Manager | Shelly Alderman, Birth Registrar |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|

## Environmental Division

|                                   |                              |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Ron Noles, Chief Environmentalist | Nick Davis, Environmentalist |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|

## Foods Division

|                               |                         |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Stacie Rees, Chief of Foods   | Kevin Davis, Inspector  |
| Taylor Muller, Office Manager | Lauren Hagen, Inspector |
| Chelsey Hamrick, Inspector    |                         |

## Emergency Preparedness Division

Jeff Houston, Emergency Preparedness  
Coordinator

## Community Outreach

|                 |               |
|-----------------|---------------|
| Sophia Harris   | Shannon Lehn  |
| Hannah Gallion  | Kayla Schmitt |
| Salvador Huizar | Emma Housel   |

## Women, Infant, & Children Division

|                                     |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Alicia Keen, Coordinator            | Priti Patel, Breastfeeding Coordination |
| Jenna Wicker, Assistant Coordinator |   |